Abstract

A system and method for updating a business object, where the business object is distributed across multiple computing systems. One of the computing systems is designated as a master or principal computing system. Each copy of the business object includes an update counter, which may be updated only by the master. Changes to the business object may be received from a subordinate computing system only when the value of the update counter at the subordinate is equal to the value of the update counter at the master. Embodiments of the invention permit the controlled manipulation of objects that are distributed across multiple computing systems. Furthermore, embodiments of the invention may be implemented with little or no modification to existing applications, each of which may employ very different data record locking mechanisms.